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OLC 71-0651
16 July 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Briefing of Senator John Stennis and Senator Margaret Chase Smith re Agency Budget--14 July 1971

1. This afternoon, I accompanied Colonel White and John Clarke who briefed Senators Stennis and Smith on the Agency budget. Senator Stennis, who had already heard the Agency's formal budget presentation as a member of the CIA Senate Appropriations Subcommittee, had requested the briefing for the benefit of Senator Smith who had not attended the Appropriations briefing. During the discussion, both Senators were quite complimentary and at the conclusion Senator Stennis remarked that he didn't see how the Agency could accomplish so much with so few people.

2. During the discussion a number of questions were asked about Laos and this situation was explained to the Senators in some detail.

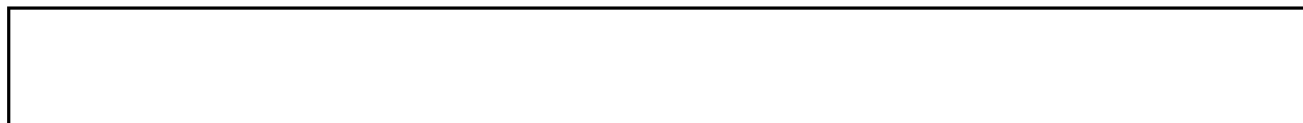
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3. Both Senators expressed concern over legislation currently under consideration which would restrict the Agency's role or surface its activities. They expressed particular concern over our involvement in Laos and indicated some feeling that the sooner we got out the better. Senator Stennis commented that "maybe we can help you get out." They were interested in the Symington amendment and its impact on the Agency's role in Laos. Senator Stennis commented that if the Agency is used by the Administration to circumvent the intent of Congress "sooner or later you will get caught" and Congress will pass legislation to prevent this in the future.

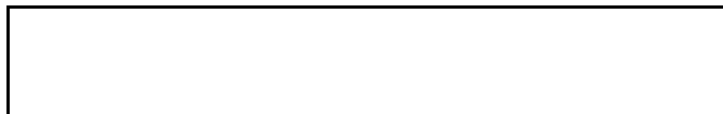
4. Both Senators agreed that the covert funding of the Agency is becoming increasingly difficult in the face of mounting pressure of the Senate membership to find out more about where Agency funds are buried

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